

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A pasting and bookbinding apparatus, comprising:
 - a sheet bundle loading device for positioning sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus and stacking the positioned sheets thereon;
 - a holding device for holding a sheet bundle stacked on the sheet bundle loading device and transporting the sheet bundle;
 - a sheet bundle transporting device for receiving the sheet bundle transported by the holding device and interposing the sheet bundle to an upright position;
 - a paste coating device for coating paste on a back portion of the sheet bundle interposed and positioned upright by the sheet bundle transporting device;
 - a cover supplying device for supplying a cover sheet;
 - a cover pasting device provided immediately below the paste coating device for pressing and pasting the cover sheet supplied from the cover supplying device against the paste-coated back portion of the sheet bundle at a position where the paste coating device has coated the paste on the back portion of the sheet bundle;
 - a cover folding device for folding the cover sheet pasted on the sheet bundle by the cover pasting device along an edge portion of the paste-coated surface of the sheet bundle;
 - a front door for opening and closing a front side of a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, wherein respective front sides of the sheet bundle loading

device, the sheet bundle transporting device, the paste coating device, the cover supplying device, the cover pasting device, the cover folding device can be opened or closed; and

an elevating device for moving the cover pasting device and the cover folding device in the vertical direction,

wherein the sheet bundle loading device, the holding device, the sheet bundle transporting device, the paste coating device, the cover supplying device, the cover pasting device, and the cover folding device are arranged in a single longitudinal line in a vertical direction inside the main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus.

2. (Previously presented) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a sheet ejection device arranged in an upper portion of the main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus for directly ejecting a sheet which does not need to be subjected to pasting and bookbinding processing.

3. (Previously presented) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the elevating device is arranged in a lower portion of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus.

4. (Previously presented) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:

a transporting device including a sheet transport path through which the sheet ejected from the image forming apparatus is transported and fed into the sheet bundle loading device, a cover transport path through which the cover sheet supplied from the cover supplying device is transported to the cover pasting device, and a sheet ejection path through which the sheet is transported to the sheet ejection device.

5. (Previously presented) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, wherein formation of the sheet bundle by the paste coating device and bookbinding are carried out at a same location, the sheet bundle is formed by coating paste between the sheets, and a book is bound by wrapping the sheet bundle with the cover sheet and adhering the cover sheet to the sheet bundle using paste to form a booklet, the cover sheet including a front cover and a back cover.

6. (Previously presented) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cover folding device forms a booklet by binding a book, the book is bound by wrapping the sheet bundle with the cover sheet and adhering a back portion of the cover sheet to the back portion of the sheet bundle to which paste has been applied, the cover sheet including a front cover surface and a back cover surface.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) An image forming system, comprising:
an image forming apparatus main body including an image writing means, an image forming means, and a sheet transporting means; and
the pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 1.
9. (Currently amended) A pasting and bookbinding apparatus, comprising:
a sheet bundle loading device for stacking a plurality of sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus;
a sheet bundle transporting device having a holding device for transporting a sheet bundle including the plurality of sheets stacked on the sheet bundle loading device and holding the sheet bundle at a prescribed position;
a paste coating device having a movable paste coating member for coating paste on end surfaces of superposed sheet bundles held at the prescribed position;
a cover pasting device provided immediately below the paste coating device for pressing and pasting a cover sheet supplied from a cover supplying device against the paste-coated end surfaces of the superposed sheet bundles at a position where the paste coating device has coated the paste; and
a front door for opening and closing a front side of a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, wherein respective front sides of the sheet bundle loading device, the sheet bundle transporting device, and the paste coating device can be opened or closed,
wherein the movable paste coating member stands by at an initial position along a longitudinal direction of the end surfaces of the sheet bundle and outside an area of

the sheet bundle for a maximum-sized sheet, moves along the longitudinal direction of the end surfaces of the superposed sheet bundle held in an upright position to coat paste during a paste coating processing, and retreats along the longitudinal direction outside the area of the sheet bundle for the maximum-sized sheet after the paste coating processing, and

wherein the sheet bundle loading device, the sheet bundle transporting device, and the paste coating device are arranged in a single longitudinal line in a vertical direction inside the main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus.

10. (Currently amended) A pasting and bookbinding apparatus, comprising:
a sheet bundle loading device for stacking a plurality of sheets ejected from an image forming apparatus thereon;

a sheet bundle transporting device having a holding device for transporting a sheet bundle including the plurality of sheets stacked on the sheet bundle loading device and holding the sheet bundle at a prescribed position;

a paste coating device which stands by at an initial position outside an area of the sheet bundle in a lateral direction of end surfaces of a superposed maximum-sized sheet bundle, and moves along end faces of the superposed sheet bundle held in an upright position during a paste coating processing;

a cover supplying device including cover sheets which contact the end surface and a back portion of the sheet bundle and supplies;

a cover pasting device provided immediately below the paste coating device for bringing the cover sheet in pressure contact with the end surfaces of the superposed

sheet bundle to paste the cover sheet at a position where the paste coating device has carried out the paste coating processing;

a cover folding device for folding the cover sheet pasted on the sheet bundle by the cover pasting device along the end faces of the superposed sheet bundle; and

a front door for opening and closing a front side of a main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus, wherein respective front sides of the sheet bundle loading device, the sheet bundle transporting device, the paste coating device, the cover supplying device, the cover pasting device, and the cover folding device can be opened or closed,

wherein the sheet bundle loading device, the sheet bundle transporting device, the paste coating device, the cover supplying device, the cover pasting device, and the cover folding device are arranged in a single longitudinal line in a vertical direction inside the main body of the pasting and bookbinding apparatus.

11. (Previously presented) The pasting and bookbinding apparatus of claim 10, wherein a booklet formed by the cover folding device is bound by wrapping the sheet bundle with a front cover surface, a back cover surface, and the end surfaces of the superposed sheet bundle.